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dailyindisb@gmail.com Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah www.dailyindependent.com.pk Islamabad

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SJC gives ex-judge Naqvi another chance to present his case

All institutions including SC accountable to people: CJP

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) on Thursday gave Justice (retd) Sayyed Mazahar Ali Akbar Naqvi — who faces complaints of misconduct — another chance to present his viewpoint before the body.

The development came a day after Naqvi stepped down from his post due to "circumstances which are a matter of public knowledge and to some extent public record"

The SJC served an intimation notice on Naqvi, whose resignation was accepted by President Arif Alvi earlier today, asking him to appear before the body tomorrow if he wants to give his viewpoint against the complaints lodged against him.

During the course of proceedings, SJC Chairman Justice Qazi Faez Isa re-

reasons behind the judge's resignation: the complaint against the judge was false and he stepped down under pressure or the allegations were true and he did not want to face them.

"The question of judge's dismissal is now irrelevant," he stated, adding that the council had just sent a report to the presi-

"If allegations had been proven, then the council would have requested the president for the judge's

All institutions, including SC, were accountable to the people, remarked Justice Isa, adding: "If everyone learns this thing, all the problems will be

Meanwhile, the SJC, noting that Naqvi's lawyers would be heard if they requested, adjourned the proceedings till 11am today



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Switzerland to Pakistan Georg Steiner called on President Dr. Arif Alvi at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

A day after Justice Naqvi

Justice Ijazul Ahsan also steps down as SC judge

ISLAMABAD (INP): Supreme Court senior judge gations revolving around amassing wealth beyond Justice Ijazul Ahsan tendered his resignation on Thursday over unknown

The third senior most judge of the apex court, Justice Ijazul Aĥsan who was set to become chief justice in October this year sent his resignation to President Arif

The development comes a day after Justice (retd) Naqvi stepped down from his post as SC judge.

Supreme Court Justice Mazahar Ali Akbar Naqvi tendered his resignation on January 10, as the Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) was hearing

In his resignation sent to President Arif Alvi, he said it wasn't possible for him to continue working, as he mentioned his tenure both at the Supreme Court and the Lahore High Court (LHC). "In the circumstances

which are a matter of public knowledge and to some extent public record, it is no longer possible for me to continue to serve as a judge of the Supreme Court of Pakistan. Considerations of due process also compel so," the resignation letter reads.

Earlier on the day, President Alvi accepted a reference against him the resignation of Justice

President accepts resignation of SC judge Mazahar Naqvi

ISLAMABAD (Online): President Arif Alvi has accepted the resignation of Supreme Court Justice Mazahar Ali Akbar Naqvi.

Petition was filed against Justice Mazahar Ali Akbar Naqvi in Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) which was to be heard on

January 13. Proceedings on Reference over the misconduct allegations, mainly revolving around amassing wealth against Mazahar Ali Akbar Naqvi was underway. . In his resignation sent to Alvi on Wednesday, he said it wasn't possible for him to continue working, as he mentioned his tenure both at the

Minister stresses post-election focus on education for progress

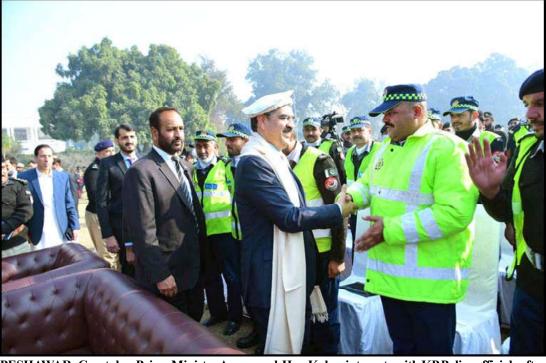
Independent Report

LAHORE: Caretaker Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Madad Ali Sindhi emphasised the crucial role of education in propelling Pakistan towards progress. He was speaking as the chief guest at the Lahore Leads University's 7th convocation held at Aiwan-e-Iqbal here on Thursday. Encouraging political parties to prioritise the education sector, he underscored the necessity of quality education for national advancement. Acknowledging the challenges faced by the government institutions, the minister praised the private sector's contribution while stressing the elected governments' responsibility in providing accessible and high-quality education.

Sindhi commended Lahore Leads University for its 11-year commitment to delivering quality education and expressed optimism that the new graduates would contribute to the nation's success. The minister concluded by congratulating teachers, parents, and students, urging the graduates to illuminate the country's name through their hard-earned education.



LAHORE: Caretaker Federal Minister for Education Madad Ali Sindhi distributing degree among students at 7th Convocation of Lahore Leads University along with Vice Chancellor Nadeem Bhatti and Chairman board of Governor Mian Zahoor Watto.



PESHAWAR: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar interacts with KP Police officials after

Whosoever does not accept law of Pakistan should go out: PM

Says we will have to fight with wisdom and proper strategy; Vowes to take the fight against terrorism in the country to the logical end; If terrorists carry out 10 attacks on us we will carry out attacks on them for 10000 times. We have won war against terrorism. Only announcement for our win has to be made; Nation highly indebted to security forces for fearlessly fighting against terrorism

PESHAWAR (Online): Care taker Prime Minister (PM) Anwaar ul Haq Kakar has said the terrorists browbeat people in the name of Islam but we don't fear from the terrorists.

"If terrorists carry out 10 attacks on us we will carry out attacks on them for 10000 times. We have won war against terrorism. Only announcement for our win has to be made.

We will not bow before accept Pakistan law he should go out from here, he spare the coward terrorists. said this while addressing Police Darbar here Thurs-

day.

The heirs of Police martyrs are not ordinary people. They are the greatest people, he added.

Who sides with evil are very degraded people. In-nocent children were martyred in APS.

Mentioning the Army Public School Peshawar tragedy in which innocent students and faculty members along with police personnel were targeted by the them, Whosoever does not terrorists, the Prime Minister said the state will not

He said correct approach is the main factor,

required in fighting terrorism and we firmly believe that we are on right path. He said terrorists can-

not shatter our resolve by carrying out terrorists attacks in the country. He said we have won war on terrorism morally. The Prime Minister re-

iterated government's resolve to continue war against terrorism till complete elimination of terrorists from the country.

He assured that all the requirements of the police force would be fulfilled in consultation with the provincial government.

Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ghulam Ali and Chief Minister Arshad Hussain Shah were also

present on this occasion. APP adds: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Thursday said the entire nation was highly indebted to the KP police which was fighting against the terrorists with bravery and valour.

"You are God's chosen group who are fighting for the State's security, the martyrs deserve paradise while the opponent group is destined to be the hell forever," he said.



FAISALABAD: Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari addresses to his supporters during public gathering meeting held at Hockey Stadium Tandlianwala in Faisalabad.

Only PPP can steer country out of crises, claims Bilawal

FAISALABAD (APP): Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari claimed on Thursday that only his party could steer the county out of current crises, as it had a very clear manifesto for people's welfare. Addressing a public gathering a Tandlianwala here, he said the PPP enjoyed masses' support because of its public welfare agenda and unprecedented sacrifices, offered by its leadership for democracy in Pakistan. He said the PPP would re-emerge as a leading force

in the general election 2024. He said the PPP had a 10-point agenda for ensuring public welfare and betterment after coming to power. He said PPP founder chairman Zulfikar Ali Bhutto had created awareness among masses

about protection of their legitimate rights whereas his mother Benazir Bhutto embraced martyrdom but never compromised on democratic norms. He said the PPP had already introduced Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) for downtrodden segments of society. After coming to power, the PPP would also introduce Benazir Kisan Card, Benazir Mazdoor Card and Benazir Youth Card, in addition to initiating free medical treatment. free education, free electricity up to 300 units, Waseela-e-Haq, Waseela-e-Rozgar and other programmes. He also announced establishment of a university in Tandlianwala if his party was voted to power, along with giving proprietary rights to people living in Kutchi

Abadis and construction of

6.0 magnitude quake jolts Islamabad, Lahore, other cities

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 6.0 magnitude earthquake on Thursday afternoon caused panic among residents of the twin cities and other part of the country.

According to Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD), the seismic activity was felt in the Federal Capital Islamabad, Rawalpindi and neighboring regions, Lahore, Muzfferabad, Peshawar, Chilas, Quetta, Zhob, Charat and other cities at 2.20 pm. The quake was recorded 6.0 magnitudes and its epicenter Hindu Kush Region of Pak-Afghan border at a depth of 213km. Its longitude and latitude were 70.63 East and 36.16 North, respectively.

FO expresses regret over unleashing of Pakistan bashing narrative in India ISLAMABAD (INP)

Pakistan has expressed regret over the unleashing of a Pakistan bashing, jingoistic and militaristic narrative in India ahead of the next Lok Sabha elections.

Responding to a query regarding the book of former Indian diplomat Ajay Bisaria, at her weekly news briefing in Islamabad, Foreign Office Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said it is a matter of common knowledge that the ruling dispensation in India used Pulwama episode for domestic political gains. She said the book of the former Indian diplomat appears to advance India's fictitious narratives around the developments of February 2019.

The spokesperson said Balakot was a military fiasco for India. It was an instance of Indian adventurism that went badly and embarrassingly wrong for them. She recalled that the Indian aircraft were shot down and an Indian pilot was taken as a prisoner by Pakistan. She said despite India's adventurism, Pakistan behaved responsibly to de-escalate the situation while demonstrating its capacity to respond when its security is threatened

Solangi reiterates govt's commitment to combat terrorism on Pakistan's soil

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi said on Thursday that the government was resolute in its commitment to combat terrorism on the soil of this

He was delivering his speech as chief guest at the launching ceremony of the Annual Security Assessment Report by the Paking and the Laurching Co. Section 1987. While the Laurching Co. stan Institute for Conflict and Security Studies (PICSS).

"On behalf of the federal government, let me assure you that we are constantly working to address the issue of terrorism through various hard and soft measures", he said.

He said that Pakistan had repeatedly asked interim Afghan government to address Pakistan's counter-terrorism concerns, especially the space avail-Afghanistan.

"Pakistan expects a positive response from the Afghan government. Pakistan has also raised the issue of access to modern weapons in Afghanistan to these militant groups besides involvement of Afghan nationals in anti-state violence in Pakistan", he

velopment.

Murtaza Solangi said on Thursday that there would be no negotiations with armed terrorist groups.

"There will be no talks with terrorists as long as they are armed and do not accept the constitution of Pakistan", Murtaza Solangi said categorically. He said that JUI Chief Maulana Fazl ur Rehman's visit to Afghanistan was unofficial.

In a statement, he said that before leaving for his able to militant groups like TTP to operate in and from various institutions.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Information & Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi addressing during a seminar on "Pakistan Election 2024: The Economic Reforms Agenda of Political Parties" organize by Press Information De-

PM for harnessing true IT potential through HR training, enabling environment

ISLAMABAD (APP): the untapped potential in Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on resources as per contemporary requirements, enabling environment and imbibing the spirit of enyouth, the true potential of Pakistan's IT sector could be harnessed

and uplift our economy in the short to medium term, Inshallah... I assure you of port to help you explore tives

Caretaker Prime Minister Pakistan's IT sector," he said addressing a Tech Des-Thursday said that with a focus on training of human tination Pakistan event which featured the launch which featured the launch of E-Rozgar Centers in the country.

He said the government

through its Digital Policy trepreneurship in the envisioned bringing economic prosperity and citiempowerment through digital transfor-'This will turn around mation as it was working on the vision of "Digital Pakistan" through multiple cross-sectoral digithe government's full sup- tal transformation initia-



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul-Haq Kakar addresses the Tech Destination Pakistan Ceremony.

IHC withdraws stay order on cipher case, annuls in-camera proceedings

ISLAMABAD (Online): annulled. They have admit-Islamabad High Court ted that December 14 order (IHC) while withdrawing was not correct. stay order in respect of cipher case trial has annulled the proceedings occurred after December 14.

The appeal plea of PTI founder Imran Khan against in camera trial of cipher case came up for hearing before single bench of IHC led by Justice Miangul hassan Aurangzeb here Thursday. The court had stayed the trial of cipher case.

Attorney General (AG) Mansoor Usman Awan and counsel Suleman Akram Raja appeared in the

AG gave his arguments. Later Suleman Akram Raja took the plea in the court that the proceedings after December 14 order be record of case.

Justice Miangul

Hassan Aurangzeb remarked "AG Sahib if you want to take back proceedings then you should do it from when the order was passed. Order will also be issued in this regard.

The AG while assuring to do in-camera proceedings afresh said we are ready to record statements of 13 itnesses.

It is pertinent to mention here Chief Justice (CJ) IHC Aamer Faroog while reserving judgment on special prosecutor plea for incamera hearing in cipher case on previous hearing had remarked we will give decision after seeing the

Daily soice of Masse Independent

Musharraf's sentence

At a time when the constitutional order in Pakistan is — yet again — facing a variety of threats, the Supreme Court has upheld military ruler Pervez Musharraf's death sentence.

The decision can serve as an inflection point where Pakistan's constitutional history and future are concerned, offering lessons for those willing to learn about the perils of veering from the democratic course, and respecting the country's basic law. The general, who ruled over Pakistan for nearly a decade, was given the death sentence by a threejudge special court in 2019. A month later, the LHC had overturned the death sentence. The SC had last year taken up a set of appeals related to the case, and on Wednesday, the apex court set aside the LHC decision ruling that it was "not sustain-

Though this paper opposes the death penalty as a matter of principle, and it would have been better if the decision had come while the military strongman was still alive — Mr Musharraf passed away last year — the ramifications of the SC judgement are considerable, just as those of the special court's original sentence were.

Though some may say that the decision is an afterthought, and that it will not stop military interventions should the proponents of marital rule decide to go ahead with it, the decision is highly symbolic. Mr Musharraf was sentenced for imposing his second emergency in 2007, yet it is fair to ask why he wasn't punished for the 'original sin' the 1999 coup. Rather than precipitating any clash of institutions, or targeting any individuals, the SC judgement should initiate a journey of soulsearching and self-reckoning within all pillars of the state, to see where we as a nation have gone wrong by abandoning the Constitution, and embracing autocratic tendencies.

Moreover, there should be an honest appraisal of history: Pervez Musharraf was not the first military strongman to rule Pakistan, though it is hoped he will be the last. Much before, in 1958, Iskander Mirza and Ayub Khan had thwarted Pakistan's democratic evolution by imposing this country's first martial law. Next, Yahya Khan's period of military rule led to the separation of East Pakistan.

The forays launched by Ziaul Haq on the constitutional order are also well-documented. But their lordships should also consider the role of their brother judges in propping up dictatorships. Many a learned jurist played a key role in validating military rule, guided by the dubious 'doctrine of necessity'

Today, as Pakistan struggles with upholding the constitutional order, and protecting fundamental rights, all institutions need to review our chequered history — including the Musharraf period — and realise that national salvation lies only in all pillars of the state staying within their constitutional bounds, and working to stop any further adventurism.

The last Pakistani



F.S. Aijazuddin

Mani Shankar Aiyar is the last Pakistani left in India. It is his 'second favourite country'. It was once an option available to milions of Indian Muslims. Since 1947, Indian Muslims have witnessed with disappointment Pakistan's descent into democratic dementia and irresponsible insolvency. They would prefer (like the Buddhists in medieval times) to guit the subcontinent and migrate to more hospitable shores.

Two periods Mani's long life (he is 83 years old) have conditioned his personality, his career, and his literary output. The first was the stint he spent as India's consul general in Karachi (1978-82). It provided a seemingly bottomless reservoir of material which he has used in various books. His Memoirs of a Maverick: The First Fifty Years (1941-1991) — was released last year.

He intended his next book to be an autobiographical sequel. His publisher, though, felt it was dominated by the second Him-alaya in his life — the late prime minister Rajiv Gandhi. They suggested a biography of Rajiv instead. Hence, Mani's fresh book The Rajiv I Knew And Why He Was India's Most Misunderstood Prime Minister

Éver since 1992, when Mani wrote his affectionate memoir Remembering Rajiv within a year of Rajiv's assassination, Mani has been more loyal to the memory of Rajiv Gandhi than Rajiv's widow Sonia and her Congress party have been to The book opens with

a chapter on Rajiv's domestic successes: The accords with Punjab, Assam, Mizoram, and Darjeeling. The second discusses the internal with Rajiv's approval and controversies that conducted in 1986/7. plagued Rajiv's political career: the Shah Bano case, the communal Pandora's box of Babri Operation Masjid,

Bofors imbroglio. Most leaders prefer to cruise in international waters than to be buffeted by domestic squalls. Rajiv was no exception. In the third chapter on Rajiv's foreign policy initiatives, Mani lauds Rajiv's efforts on nuclear disarmament, improving relations with China and Pakistan, Indian intervention in the Mal-di-v--es in 1988, and the establishment of the AF--R----ICA Fund in 1986. Mani provided Rajiv with the catchy acronym: 'Act-ion For Resis-t-ing

Brasstacks, IPKF, and the

Invasion Mozambique], Colonialism [in Namibia], and Apartheid [in South Af-

The fourth chapter Innovative Domes-tic Initiatives — is a check-list of Rajiv's rad-ial interest in technology missions, Zonal Cultural Centres and Apna Utsavs, Island Development Authority, drought-proofing and the economy.

The concluding fifth chapter is on the Panchayat(i) Raj initiative. Mani's untiring efforts as India's first ever cabinet minister for panchayat raj and as chairman of the Expert Committee on the Panchayats (2011-13) reached its apogee when the committee produced a five-volume report. He dubs it 'an Encyclopaedia Panchayatica.' To Mani's chagrin, that report now "moulders in forgotten cupboards", ignored by

Mani tried to bring the panchayats centre stage. Instead, in 2013, Mani was eased off-stage by Congress president sist. -- Courtesy Dawn

Modi's government.

Mani's comments about Pa----kistan will be of primary interest. He de--als openly with Operation Brasstacks, lau-n-ched

That provocative operation - "bigger than any Nato exercise and the biggest since World War II" — took place on "the vicinity of the Pakistan border, involving half a million troops - half the Indian Army within a hundred miles of Pakistani territory — and the deployment of Indian naval forces for an amphibious naval trial assault in the Korangi creek that led from the sea to Pakistan's commercial capital,

Karachi" On January 28, 1987, President Ziaul Haq retaliated smokelessly by allowing Dr A.Q. Khan to reveal to the Ind-ian iourn-alist Kuldip Nayar that Pakistan had gone nuclear. Na--yar (hoping to earn more than kudos for this explosive disclosure) deliberately withheld publication of this till March 1, by which time confrontation had cooled to consultation.

Mani's recollection that speech bulges with pride: "It was the distilled essence of all I had learned of Pakistan and Pakistanis in my three years in Karachi. And here it was pouring forth from the mouth of the prime minister!"

Despite Mani's unquenchable optimism, his dream of "an uninterr u p t e d , uninterru-p--tible" relationship between India and Pa---kistan will remain unfulfilled. Certainly, as long as his nemesis PM Modi and the BJP co---ntinue to rule India. That could go on un--til 2039, when Mani will be all of 97 years old. Mani's janambhumi is Lahore, in Pakistan — both magnets he finds impossible to re-

Championing SDGs



Furgan Hyder Shaikh

Pakistan is one of the countries which adopted the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030—also called 'global goals' - in order to attain lasting development, peace, and prosperity for its people. It is a matter of much pride that Pakistan was the first country to adopt the SDGs at the country level when it officially passed a parliamentary resolution to this effect in 2016. The Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives has since established SDG Support Units through provincial planning and development departments to provide guidance on their implementation and track the progress made.

Implementing the SDGs in spirit promises to end poverty and inequality, ensure the protection of the Earth, and ensure that all people on this planet have access to the enjoyment of health, justice, and prosperity. Pakistan has spent eight years engaging with the SDGs and streamlining and localising them. But though it was proactive in adopting the SDGs, their implementation could be better. One wonders how many people know about the SDGs in, for example, Sindh's Tharparkar and coastal belt. How many SDG-driven schools have been operationalised? How many children at Sindh's high schools and colleges know about the SDGs? How many introductory sessions have been organised at schools colleges and Hyderabad?

In mid-2023, I moved

where I asked a member of a local business association about the SDGs. Puzzled, he asked, "What is an SDG?" The reply made me think that if the business community in Sindh was not aware of the SDGs, how could the SDGs be localised and streamlined? An honest, meaningful commitment to achieving SDGs entails localising them on the ground level. The business community, academia, health sector, food entities, builders, exploration and production companies, universities, development sector, transportation sector, and parliamentarians all need to educate themselves on SDGs and think about what practical initiatives they can take in this regard. A much-needed step

in streamlining and localising the SDGs is to translate them into local languages. For example, in Sindh, these languages would include Sindhi, Urdu, Marwari, Brahvi and Dhatki. In Tharparkar (as well as a large portion of the areas that comprise the Mirpurkhas division), Dhatki is the most common language spoken locally. Access to a Dhatki version of the SDGs would greatly help the locals as they go about planning their future business and non-business activities.

There is a pressing need for the Sindh Education and Literacy Department, in consultation with the Sindh SDG Support Unit, to develop an object- could invite researchers, oriented edutainment economists, engineers, booklet that can help make students and teachers aware of the SDGs and their practical applications in real-world scenarios. A weekly session on SDGs and what possible ideas can be drawn from SDGs should be discussed, evaluated, and projected.

If one is to think opportunistically, the Sindh government is currently reconstructing the flooddamaged houses of those affected by the 2022 mon-

to Mithi, Tharparkar, soon in different districts, including Mirpurkhas, Badin, Sanghar, and Tando Mohammad Khan, through a dedicated entity called Sindh People's Housing for Flood Affectees (SPHF). There is a unique opportunity to turn this reconstruction project into a showcase for SDG localisation. If the houses and their attached communities can be used to demonstrate the benefits of the 17 SDGs, this will facilitate others' understanding of what the SDGs could look like at the rural level. It will encourage local children to ask their teachers and elders questions about their importance. Word will spread by mouth, opening new avenues for sustainable development and good governance in the country's vast rural

> To implement the SDGs effectively, governments at all levels need to understand their importance in their provinces' everyday affairs. All policies need to be consciously driven by at least one of the 17 SDGs in alignment with each government's administrative targets. This will ensure that governments will remain dedicated to streamlining the SDGs into their development agenda.

> It is also imperative that an SDG forum be established by provincial governments at the district level. This forum NGOs, teachers, university faculty, representatives of the business community, chambers of commerce and industry, and the youth to contribute to the implementation of SDGs at the district level. Informed input and novel ideas will open up innovative mechanisms to achieve global goals by 'acting ocally and impacting globally'. -- Courtesy

Commerce News

President directs insurance company to refund Rs 100,000 with profit

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi has directed EFU Life Assurance Ltd to refund Rs 100,000 along with profit to a poor lady who had been misled to obtain

the insurance policy. According to a press Wing on Thursday, Zubaida Begum had 100,000 by participating in a local "committee" and account, but she was

Being a poor lady, deposited inability to pay an annual premium of Rs 100,000 and asked for a refund of her deposit, she was told that she'd only be insurance company to refunded an amount of Rs refund Rs 40,000 to the 40,000, being the woman, prevailing cash value of

the policy. Insurance Ombudsman (FIO) but her grievance was not a representation with the

going through the record, decided the matter in her favour.

release issued by the observed that the and had not realized that President House Press complainant was entitled Rs 100,000 had been kept at least to the refund of the principal amount as 2020. obtained an amount of Rs her claim was just and

He added that the intended to deposit the amount in her bank to a poor lady who never opted to purchase the that insurance policy at the and thereafter the denial of the refund of the constituted maladministration.

without appreciating the fact that an amount of Rs 60,000

Feeling aggrieved, was remaining to be paid she approached the by the company. He said that as per

President against the policyholders, and non-decision of FIO. The refund of even the president personally deposited amount by the heard the case of the insurance company was a aggrieved lady, and after sheer violation of the spirit of the Ordinance.

He stated that FIO had failed to follow the In his decision, he spirit of the Ordinance by the company since

, and they must also have earned considerable profit on it by investing

The president wrote the equitable fraudulently issued an policy in the first place principle of enrichment envisaged that no one should unjustly enrich Being a poor lady, deposited premium themselves at the expense when she expressed her amount by the company of others.

He added that it would be unjust to The president noted deprive the lady of her that FIO had directed the share in respect of the profit earned on her money. The president,

therefore, accepted the representation of Ms Zubaida Begum and directed EFU Life Assurance to refund the Insurance Ordinance full amount of Rs 100,000 2000, FIO was to ensure with profit to the addressed. Later, she filed the protection of the complainant within 30



Mr. Saquib Fayyaz Magoon, SVP FPCCI, is presenting the commemorative shield to H.E. Dr. Riina Koinka, Ambassador of EU in Pakistan. Mr. Asif Sakhi & Mr. Aun Ali Syed, VPs FPCCI; Mirza Ikhtiar Baig, former SVP FPCCI; Mr. Shabbir Mansha, former VP FPCCI; Mr. Adeel Siddiqui, President HCCI and Sahibzadi Mahin Khan were also present on the occasion.

ISLAMABAD: Senator Khalida Ateeb, Chairperson Senate Standing Committee on Industries and Production presiding over a meeting of the committee at Parliament House EU Ambassador visits FPCCI: **GSP+** status enabled 108% export growth in a decade

Independent Report KARACHI: Atif Ikram Sheikh, President FPCCI, has stressed that the 27country economic alliance of European Union – with a cumulative GDP of almost \$20 trillion – can help Pakistan steer out of the chronically dilapidated state of the economy of Pakistan; and, enhancing our exports to the EU nations should be the cornerstone of broader economic rela-

Pakistan has achieved an encouraging 108 percent growth in exports to EU over a period of 10 years; however, in order to retain our GSP Plus status, we must not be complacent and be vigilantly continuing to fulfill EU criteria, he added.

that H.E. Dr. Riina Kionka, Ambassador of EU in Pakistan, has paid a detailed visit to the FPCCI Head Office in Karachi; along with her senior team members; aimed at offering the apex body their full support in fulfilling GSP+ opportunities and require-

Mr. Saquib Fayyaz Magoon, SVP FPCCI, explained that Pakistan is, indeed, a major beneficiary of GSP Plus since 2014 as it has facilitated our exports to European Union. Under this scheme, Pakistan is eligible to export around two third of products at zero tariff rate or at preferential tariff rate; and, Pakistan's GSP+ status has been extended to 2027 It is pertinent to note as of now.

Finance Minister advocates climate action & embraces carbon market initiatives

Independent Report

caretaker Finance Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ahmed Rasul Bangash, took center stage as the Chief Guest at a workshop on 'Navigating Voluntary Carbon Markets in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa' emphasizing the critical role of climate finance in sustainable development.

The session was organized by UK-Aid funded Sustainable Energy and Economic Development (SEED) Program with the aim to explore how Khyber Pakhtunkhwa can realize its significant capacity for carbon projects, particularly those centered around

nature-based solutions and renewable energy projects.In his address, Finance Minister Mr. Bangash underscored the urgency of addressing climate change challenges, recognizing them as a global imperative that demands collective action. He highlighted the adverse impacts already affecting communities ecosystems, emphasizing the need for innovative approaches to mitigate

build resilience. The Finance Minister acknowledged significance of voluntary carbon markets in unlocking climate finance and at the same time building resilience.

environmental risks and

Freelancers to start receiving payments from PayPal in February: Minister ISLAMABAD (APP): would have access to devised a mechanism for

country.

Caretaker Federal Minister and Telecommunication Dr. Umar Saif on Thursday said that under the pilot project, 10,000 freelancers would start receiving payments from PayPal in

February. Addressing a Tech Destination Pakistan event that featured the launch of E-Rozgar Centers in the country, he said, "In February, we are going to start the first pilot project in which 10,000 freelancers in Pakistan would be able to start receiving payments through PayPal."

The minister further mentioned that in March, the program would be scaled up and everyone

No plans to

hand over

DISCOs to

ISLAMABAD (APP): In

response to recent news

circulating in the media, the

Ministry of Energy, Power

Division, on Thursday,

categorically denied any plans

to hand over Distribution

Companies (DISCOs) to

statement issued by the

Ministry of Energy, Power Division, clarified that the

news circulating in the media

about DISCOs being handed

over to the army is incorrect.

said, "Neither is there any

change in the management

of DISCOs nor are they

being handed over to any

other institution

The ministry further

institution. The

payments from PayPal the opening of bank and Stripe across the

He clarified that while PayPal itself is not coming to Pakistan, an agreement has been reached where remittances

party.
Under the newly devised program, the freelancers will not need to open a PayPal account. Instead, individuals outside the country will make payments from their PayPal accounts, and the freelancers' accounts, the minister explained.

government has through a public-private.

LAHORE

paramount.

accounts for freelancers He mentioned that only freelancers would have to provide evidence that they have an account on Fiverr Upwork, Elance, Toptal, or Crossover. The minister would be channeled added, "The IT industry through PayPal via a third would have a 50 percentdollar retention policy, which means that whatever you earn, you can keep 50 percent of that in

dollars. You will get a debit card from that bank so that you can freely spend that money domestically or internationally." He highlighted that the funds will be promptly highlighted that the deposited into the government has allocated enough funds for the establishment of E-Rozgaar The minister said that centers across the country

'Empowering women can ensure sustained economic growth? any institution

(APP):

Ombudsman had great significance for economic growth. Addressing a round-table conference on "Impact of he added that women had a programmes, pivotal role to play in the economic and overall development prioritising empowerment became

Kashif Meher was of Coordinator to Minister of the view that investing in State and Federal Tax women's education, Meher healthcare and economic Kashif Younis on opportunities not only Thursday said that enhanced their well-being empowering women at grassroots level in Pakistan nation towards prosperity.

He said economic fostering sustainable empowerment involved creating opportunities for women to enter and thrive in various sectors. Empowering Women in Micro-finance initiatives, Economic Growth" here, vocational training support for women entrepreneurs could boost economic growth by their tapping the potential of women in the workforce, he suggested.

PML-N issues

ticket to father

in law of Gogi

from Gujranwala

LAHORE (Online): PML-

N has issued party ticket

to Chaudhry Muhammad

Iqbal father in law of Farah

Gogi from Gujranwala for

Chaudhry

Muhammad Iqbal will be

PML-N candidate from

PP-68 Gujranwala. He was

elected MPA on PML-N

ticket earlier. He was

defeated by Chaudhry

Pervaiz Elahi in the

election for speaker Punajb

Assembly in 2018.

party

from

election-2024.

announced

candidates

PML-N

Gujranwala division.

KP Governor lends support to Civil Society's call of banning e-cigarettes, vaping

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor, Haji Ghulam Ali extended support to Civil Society's call for banning e-cigarettes and vaping while keeping in view its harms to public health and increasing use of modern tobacco products among youth.

He expressed these views while talking with a delegation that called on him under the chairmanship of Qamar Programme Manager Blue Veins, a nongovernmental organization.

Other members of the delegation included Ajmal Shah, Coordinator Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Tobacco Control Cell, Dr. Ihtisham, Chest Specialist LRH, Dr. Qazi Shahbaz, Chairman

PESHAWAR (APP): Association, Mohmmad country, the existing laws Coordinator National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) and Sana Program Coordinator Blue Veins.

Speaking during the meeting, Qamar Naseem apprised Governor Haji Ghulam Ali that new tobacco products are emerging in the whole world at a very fast speed. In our country, he

continued, these products are available very easily in markets and due to deceiving slogans of harm reduction or 'Quit smoking and start vaping' is attracting a large number of people towards

Qamar said due to lack of latest legislation in the

LARKANA: A woman busy is selecting used warm

Health minister

advocates raising age

limit for girl marriages

faced by young brides.

Dr. Nasir pointed out that

subjecting minor girls or those

not physically or emotionally

mature to marriage could result

in multiple problems for them.

He emphasised the importance

of protecting the fundamental

rights of females, backed by

medical evidence showing their

genetic and natural vulnerability

Early marriages, he warned

could lead to a drastic

deterioration in the physical

health of young brides,

contributing to societal issues

clothes at Old Bus Stand Road.

LAHORE (APP): Punjab

Minister for Primary and

Secondary Healthcare Dr.

Jamal Nasir Thursday

emphasised the necessity

of increasing the age limit

session, organised by the

National Commission on

the Status of Women

(NCSW) here, he cited

hormonal changes during

adolescence that often lead

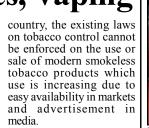
to physiological disorders.

The minister highlighted

the potential health risks surrounding infertility.

In a consultative

for girl marriages.



members requested the Governor for measures to impose a ban on vapes and all forms of e-cigarettes. In this regard, they also suggested legislation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Responding to the points, Governor KP Haji Ghulam Ali while expressing agreement to the call extended support for imposition of ban on these products with the purpose of protecting public health, especially youth.

Bid to smuggle heroin abroad foiled: 3 held

PESHAWAŔ (APP): The excise police station, Mardan Region on Thursday foiled a bid to smuggle heroin abroad and arrested an international drug smuggler along with two facilitators while recovering 57 swallowed capsules. According to the spokesman of Excise, the Excise police acting on a tip-off conducted an operation on Ring Road Chamtar Chowk, district Mardan and intercepted a suspected vehicle with three persons onboard and going to Islamabad International Airport.

The police took the main accused Naveed, a resident of Kot Radha Kishan, district Kasur, to MMC Hospital where a health team recovered 57 swallowed capsules of

heroin from his stomach. The Excise police arrested the international drug smuggler along with the real owner of the drug Habib-ul-Haq, and co-facilitator Muhammad, residents of Bara.



LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Sindh Mohsin Naqvi distributing laptops amongst the students of King Edwards Medical College.

'Pneumonia cases rises in Punjab' Minister advise citizens to maintain a healthy diet, use face masks

Independent Report LAHORE: Provincial Minister for Primary and Jamal Nasir Thursday urged people to remain vigilant while maintaining a healthy diet and using face masks as 'pneumonia cases' were continuously

rising due to smog weather. Talking to a private news channel he pointed out that people with weak immunity due to chronic cardiac, kidney and liver diseases or diabetes could easily contract the respiratory disease in cold

warned of an acute rise in pneumonia cases among Secondary Health and elderly people and Population Welfare Dr children, adding, citizens asked to use plenty of rest,

warm beverages, steam baths or the use of humidifiers in houses for air moisture and timely consultations with doctors.

He said that the major cause of increased cases was undiagnosed influenza and pneumonia cases, adding, citizens to immediately consult doctors and receive treatment after having respiratory issues.

ANF seizes 250 kg drugs in five operations RAWALPINDI (APP):

Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting five operations across the country managed to recover 250 kg of drugs and arrested four accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Thursday. He informed that 637 grams of weed was recovered from a parcel sent from Thailand at the courier office Rawalpindi while three accused were arrested.

In an operation, 128.5 kg hashish and 53.5 kg opium were recovered near

Swabi Interchange. 36 kg hashish was recovered from an accused rounded up from Ring Road

KP Govt decides to launch major literacy campaign in merged districts; Dr. Aamer

Independent Report

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Caretaker Minister for Newly Merged Districts Affairs, Industries, Commerce and Technical Education Dr. Aamer Abdullah has said that the provincial government has decided to launch a major literacy campaign of "Ilam Da Tolo Dapara" (Education for All) to increase literacy rate in the merged districts. He said that the aim of this campaign was to promote the boys and girls education in these districts, adding that in order to make this campaign successful, it had been decided to establish a task force at the district

literacy experts who would supervise this campaign.

In a radio interview on Thursday, the caretaker minister said that it had also been decided to start a campaign to make dysfunctional educational institutions functional by increasing the enrollment of students in the merged districts.

While introducing technical education and skills training courses in general educational institutions, the Technical Education and Vocational Training (TEVTA) Authority has been assigned the task of conducting a feasibility study about identification of suitable institutions for



PESHAWAR: Traffic Warden Officials are removing tinted sheet from a car at Cantt Bazar.

Lawyers Grand Alliance organizes event

Rana Shahid Mehmood KOT ADDU: According to the details, on the last day of the campaign of District Bar Association Kot Addu Annual Elections 2024,25, an event was organized by the Lawyers Grand Alliance in which the presidential candidate Munir Ahmed Korya Advocate, Deputy President Jam Naeem Akhtar Advocate, General Secretary Imran Mustafa Bhatti Advocate, Joint Secretary Waqar Ahmed Dogar, Finance Secretary Shahzadul Haque, Library Secretary Noman Ali Chaudhry, Editor Furqan

Majeed and other

candidates also organized

the event on behalf of the members.

Punjab Bar Council Ijaz Ahmad Khan Gormani said that the bar association was given the status of district so that by activating the district courts, the citizens do not have to travel miles to solve the problems faced by them. I played a role in providing facilities by activating the dispensary. He said that the candidates for the national elections should stop criticizing the Bar Association. By creating a pleasant atmosphere between the bar and the bench, solve the problems of the petitioners and lawyers on priority basis and make the Grand lunch for the participants of Alliance group successful.

May 9 incident Court approves 14 days judicial remand of PTI founder in 12 cases

RAWALPINDI (Online): 14 days judicial remand of PTI founder Imran Khan in 12 cases related to May 9 incident has approved.

12 cases pertaining to May 9 incidents were heard in Adiala Jail against former Prime Minister (PM) Imran Khan Thursday. The case came up for hearing before Anti Terrorism Court (ATC) led by judge Ijaz Asif.

Imran Khan was presented in the court on completion of two days to May 9 incidents.

physical remand. Malik Faisal and Shahbaz Khosa represented PTI founder in

court. investigation officers requested the court during hearing of the case to extend physical remand of Imran Khan for further 30

The court however rejected the plea for further physical remand of Imran Khan.The court sent Imran Khan to jail on judicial remand for 14 days in 12 cases related

International News

Abbas agrees to reunite West Bank, Gaza: Blinken

US supports establishment of independent Palestinian state

Monitoring Desk MANAMA: US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said on Wednesday that Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas was committed to reforming the Palestinian Authority in a way that could "reunite" Gaza and the occupied West Bank under its leadership.

In a related development, Egypt and Jordan warned against any Israeli reoccupation in the Gaza Strip Blinken was speaking to reporters in Bahrain afthe West Bank city of Ramallah during a tour of the Middle East aimed at preventing an escalation of the Israel-Hamas conflict.

"We talked [...] about the importance of reforming the Palestinian Author-

so that it can effectively take responsibility for Gaza... so that Gaza and the West Bank can be reunited under a Palestinian

he's prepared to move forward and engage in all of these efforts.

Blinken said Abbas ity. "What I take away from this meeting is that he is ter meeting with Abbas in committed to that and is told AFP in response to a question about Abbas's commitment to reforming

Egypt and Jordan while warning against any

ity, policy and governance Israeli reoccupation in the Gaza Strip appealed for the uprooted residents to be allowed to return to their homes as the Arab countries' leaders met Abbas.

leadership," he said.

"It's very clear to me United Nations Security Council (UNSC) has for president Abbas that demanded the Yemeni Houthis to immediately stop attacks on ships in the Red Sea.

According to media was committed to reform- reports, 11 of the 15 pering the Palestinian Author- manent members of the Security Council voted in favor of the resolution. 4 countries including Russia very much prepared to move forward," Blinken and China did not participate in the voting, and no country opposed the reso-

> The Security Council resolution endorsed a USled task force to protect ships from attack.

America's announcement of relaxation in visa conditions

WASHINGTON (Online): United States (US) has announced relaxation of visa conditions, the US Department of State has changed the preconditions for all non-immigrant visa interview waivers.

US has announced relaxation of visa requirements for foreigners. The United States has changed the prerequisites for all nonimmigrant interview waivers. The US State Department has changed the prerequisites for all non-immigrant visa interview waivers. With the new changes, applicants will be able to get study and visit visas without appearing for an interview. Washington attracts a large number of international students, and is among the top destinations for higher education due to its excellent academic institutions, diverse academic programs and research onportunities. The State De-

partment added that appli-

cants may be eligible for a

visa interview waiver if they

obtain a nonimmigrant visa.



tinian journalist Hamza Al-Dahdouh, after Hamza was killed in an Israeli strike, in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip.

Oil tanker involved in U.S.-Iran dispute boarded by armed guards near Oman, diverted

DUBAI (Internews): An oil tanker caught up in a dispute last year between the United States and Iran was boarded by armed individuals off the coast of Oman on Thursday and appeared to have changed course towards Iran, according to UK maritime sources.

The Marshall Islandsflagged tanker St Nikolas was boarded by armed intruders as it sailed close to the Omani city of Sohar, according to British maritime security firm Ambrey, and its AIS tracking system was turned off as it headed in the direction of the Iranian port of Bandar-e-Jask. In 2023 the St Nikolas was seized by the United States in a sanctions enforcement operation when it sailed under a different name, Suez Rajan.

The United States said at the time that Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) had been trying to send contraband Iranian oil to China, in violation of U.S. sanctions.

The ship loaded 145,000 metric tonnes of oil in the Iraqi port of Basra and was heading to Aliaga in western Turkey via the

WHO cancels sixth aid mission to Gaza over security concerns

Monitoring Desk LONDON: The World Health Organisation

(WHO) cancelled another planned medical aid mission to Gaza on Wednesday over security concerns, the sixth such cancellation in two weeks, and sounded a fresh alarm over the spread of infectious disease there.

The UN body's director general, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, said it was the sixth mission to northern Gaza cancelled by the UN agency because requests to visit

had not been approved or assurances over security provided since its last visit, on Dec 26.

"Intense bombardment, restrictions on movement, fuel shortage and interrupted communications make it impossible for WHO and our partners to reach those in need," he told a virtual press conference from Geneva. "We call on Israel to approve requests by WHO and other partners to deliver humanitar-

Afghan women detained over 'improper' hijab Monitoring Desk

KABUL: A Taliban official has said several girls and women were detained recently in Kabul for not covering themselves properly, after reports circulated of a crackdown in the Afghan

In a video posted on on Wednesday, security official Ehsanullah Saqib told a gathering of religious scholars in Kabul's western Dasht-e-Barchi neighbourhood that in the past week "we have detained a number of women and girls who were without hijab, with the help of women police"

Women have been squeezed from public life, barred from travelling without a male relative.

Finland extends Russia border closing by four weeks

RUSSIA (Internews): closure of its border with Russia by four weeks until Feb. 11, the ministry of interior said on Thursday, confirming earlier reports that all crossings would remain shut. On Wednesday, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry Sari Essayah told national broadcaster YLE that the border, which had otherwise been set to reopen on Jan. 15, would remain

journalists slain in Gaza strike were 'terror operatives'

Israel army claims two

army claimed on Wednesday that two Al Jazeera journalists it killed in an air strike in Gaza were "terror operatives"

Hamza Wael Dahdouh and Mustafa Thuria, who also worked as a video stringer for a foreign news agency and other news organisations, were killed on Sunday while they were on an assignment for the Qatar-based channel in the city of Rafah.

The army said in a statement on Wednesday its "intelligence has confirmed that both the deceased were members of Gaza-based terrorist organisations actively involved in attacks against IDF (army) forces".

"Prior to the strike, the two operated drones, posing an imminent threat to IDF troops," the army

There was no immethe television channel and car were wounded

Wednesday reporters about what kind of drones were used by the two men and

the nature of the threat the drones posed to Israeli troops, the army said it was 'checking". It said Thuria was identified in a document found by troops in Gaza to be a member of Hamas's

Gaza City Brigade, while

Dahdouh was identified as "terrorist" belonging to Islamic Jihad. The army statement included a copy of a document it said was a list of "operatives from an electronic engineering unit of the Islamic Jihad, including

Dahdouh and his military Dahdouh and Thuria were killed when the car they were travelling in was hit by two rockets on a street in Rafah, according to witnesses. A third jourdiate reaction available from nalist and the driver of the

Brazil expresses support for South African genocide case against Israel

Brazil has expressed its support for the case filed by South Africa at the International Court of Justice against Israel's attacks on the Gaza Strip, which have caused more than 23,000 deaths since Oct. 7.

The Brazilian decision was taken hours after President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva met in Brasilia with Palestinian Ambassador Ibrahim Alzeben. Although Lula empha-

sized that his administration immediately condemned the Hamas attack of Oct. 7, he affirmed that "such acts do not justify Israel's indiscriminate, recurrent and disproportionate use of force against ci-

Brazil's Foreign Ministry said in a statement that considering "the flagrant violations of international

SAO PAULO (Internews): humanitarian law," Lula expressed support for South Africa's case with the goal of ordering "Israel to immediately cease all acts and measures that may constitute genocide or related crimes under the terms of the Convention for the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.'

The statement emphasized that Lula has been making efforts in the international community for a ceasefire, the liberation of Hamas-held hostages, and the creation of humanitarian corridors to protect Palestinian civilians. "The Brazilian government reiterates its defense of the two-state solution, with an economically viable Palestinian state living side by side with Israel, in peace and security, within mutually agreed and internationally recognized

war on cartels **Monitoring Desk** QUITO: Hundreds of soldiers patrolled near-deserted streets in Ecuador's capital Wednesday after the government and drug mafias declared

A demonstrator holds a sign during a protest as

judges at The International Court of Justice (ICJ)

in the Hague, hear a request for emergency mea-

sures to order Israel to stop its military actions in

Soldiers on the streets

as Ecuador declares

war on each other, leaving residents gripped with fear.

Gaza, in Amman Jordan.

On Tuesday, officials said another narco boss — Los Lobos leader Fabricio Colon Pico — also escaped since his arrest last Friday

for alleged involvement in a

plot to assassinate Ecuador's attorney general. Ecuador President Daniel Noboa said on

Wednesday that his country was "at war" with drug gangs who are holding more than 130 prison guards and other staff hostage and who briefly captured a TV station live on air and set off explosions in a surge of violence that has left city



Caretaker Federal Minister for Health Dr. Nadeem Jan addressing closing ceremony of Global Health Security Summit in

ISLAMABAD (APP):

Prime Minister's Special

Representative for Reli-

gious Harmony and Paki-

lowing the visit of Indian

delegation, led by Union Minister Smriti Irani, to

'India trying to crush Kashmiris'

indigenous

freedom struggle' ISLAMABAD (APP): All

Parties Hurriyat Confer-

ence Azad Jammu and

Kashmir (APHC-AJK) and

other Hurriyat leaders have

said that India is trying to

crush the indigenous free-

dom struggle of the

Kashmiri people by state

coercion and military force

on Thursday. According to

Kashmir Media Services,

Mehmood Ahmad Saghar,

General Secretary Sheikh

Abdul Mateen, Altaf Hussain

Wani and Uzair Ahmed

Ghazali Sheikh Yaqoob, in

their separate statements.

Delegation of Islamabad high court judges visited Safe City Islamabad

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: According to the details, Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCPO) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, along with CPO Safe City/Traffic, CPO Law and Order and other senior police officers, welcomed the delegation of Islamabad High Court Judges, a public relations officer said.

He said that the delegation visits the command and control center, the data hub unit, modern technology-equipped cameras, and the police operations center hall. They were fully briefed about the procedures and benefits.

Furthermore, the delegation was informed that Safe City Islamabad is playing a significant role in vari-

E-Challan System, and the "Pucar-15" helpline.

He emphasized that the delegation was also apprised of the functionality and benefits of the Safe City cameras in the city. The modern cameras of Safe City are playing a crucial role in ensuring the safety of the city and preventing crimes and safeguarding the lives and property of citizens. 42% of crimes are resolved through the Safe City Command and Control

Face recognition cameras have been installed at the entry and exit points of the city which are playing an important role in identifying suspicious elements. he maintained.

The delegation ac-



ing the Police Operations Islamabad Capital Police and Center, Emergency Control its benefits. The ICCPO

modern techniques, includ- technical system of the Center, Data Hub Unit, presents an honorary shield Dispatch Control Center, to the honorable judges.

BECS, FDI agree to advance climate education in ICT Schools

ISLAMABAD (APP): Di- derstanding outlines a comfor Dignity Initiatives (FDI) on Thursday signed a landmark Letter of Understanding (LOU) to advance Climate Education in Informal Schools in Islamabad.

The LOU underscores the commitment to environmental education and hu-

The partnership aims to enhance climate education initiatives within informal and formal schools across Islamabad

The signing ceremony, held at BECS office marked the collaborative efforts of BECS, led by Mr. Hameed Khan Niazi and fdi, represented by Ms. Uzma Yaqoob. The event was attended by esteemed dignitaries, representatives from both organizations, educators, and activists who share a common vision for a sustainable and informed future. The Letter of Un- youth.

rectorate General of Basic prehensive framework for Education Community the integration of climate Schools (BECS) and Forum education modules into the curriculum of informal schools in Islamabad. This groundbreaking initiative seeks to empower students with the knowledge and skills necessary to understand, address, and mitigate the challenges posed by climate change.
BECS expressed en-

thusiasm about the partnership, stating, "Education is the cornerstone of societal progress, and climate education is pivotal in fostering responsible global citizens. This collaboration with fdi aligns with our commitment to providing quality education that equips students with the tools they need to navigate an ever-changing world."

fdi has a longstanding commitment to environmental advocacy, and Ms. Uzma emphasized the importance of educating the



tinguishing at house in Sector G-6/1-2 in Federal

stani Diaspora in the Middle East and Muslim ing a quota of 175,025 pilgrims for this year's annual Hafiz countries. Muhammad Tahir Hajj pilgrimage, he added. Mahmood Ashrafi on Ashrafi, who is also Thursday expressed conthe chairman of Pakistan Ulema Council, referred to cerns about the unjustified social media smear cama verse from the Holy Ouran related to the prohipaign against Saudi leaderbition of non-Muslims' He, in a statement, visit, and clarified that this

applied to just Masjid-e-Haram, according to the views of several Ulema and stressed the need to effectively counter the tactics, aimed at creating emotional confusion and gulf among Mashaykh admirers of Saudi Arabia. He specifically referred to a controversy, fol-

He cited religious de-crees from Saudi Mufti Azam Ibn Baz and other prominent scholars, affirming that non-Muslims could indeed visit Madina specific purposes.

Ashrafi debunks misconceptions

about non-Muslims' visit to

Madina Munawarah

her two-day official visit to

the Kingdom. The purpose

of the visit was to sign a

bilateral agreement allocat-

Munawarah

Madina Munawarah during Emphasizing the historical context, Ashrafi highlighted instances from the era of the second Caliph Hazrat Umar (RA) when non-Muslims visited the Madina for trade pur-

> He also mentioned that even Christians from Najran visited Madina even during the lifetime the Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him).

Ashrafi discussed the two aspects of the visit, considering both Shariah and political dimensions. He asserted that Saudi religious scholars and leaders had a clear stance on the temporary visit of non-Muslims to Madina for

National polio immunization campaign continues

ISLAMABAD (APP): The first nationwide polio vaccination campaign of the year 2024 continued in the country on Thursday to protect children from paralytic polio. During the ongoing nationwide campaign, more than 44.3 million children under five years of age will be given oral polio drops during the five-daylong campaign, which will continue until January 12.

Children in Lakki Marwat and South Waziristan Upper and Lower will be vaccinated

the campaign will be held in Tank from January 15-21 and in DI Khan from January 22-28.

Over 400,000 vaccinators will bring the vaccine to children's doorsteps. In Punjab, 22.6 million children will be vaccinated, while 10.3 million children in Sindh, 7.5 million children in KP, 2.6 million children in Balochistan, 0.72 million children in AJK, 0.28 million children in GB, and 0.42 million children in



ISLAMABAD: Secretary Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Ms. Shahera Shahid delivering opening remarks at seminar "Pakistan Election 2024: The Economic Reforms Agenda of Political Parties" organized by Press **Information Department.**

Shahera appreciates PID for initiating debate on national issues ahead of general elections

Shahid on Thursday appreciated the Press Infor- Pakistan and their solumation Department for tions in the backdrop of holding a series of seminars in the run up to com- tions. ing general elections to generate debate on national is-

Addressing the opening session of a seminar on "Pakistan Election 2024: The Economic Reforms Agenda of Political Parties" here, she said that

ISLAMABAD (APP): through this series of semi- elections and what policies Secretary Information and nars, the government shout be adopted to over-Broadcasting Shahera wanted to initiate debate come these problems and on issues being faced by put the country on path of development, she said. The Secretary said

upcoming general electhat in the seminar, not only experts on economic The objective of this affairs were invited but also seminar was to educate the representatives of the people about the problems political parties to give to be faced by the governtheir respective parties ment which would come to perspective on economic power after February 8 revival.

Dark night of Indian oppression in IIOJK will eventually end: APHC

ISLAMABAD (APP): The All Parties Hurriyat
Conference (APHC)
Thursday said that the
cupation of India, yet they formula and is hell bent on using repression against

He said Kashmiris are

machinations.

Global health summit concludes with commitment to unified response, collaborative action

The Global Health Summit, a two-day event with health ministers from countries, health experts and stakeholders from around the world, concluded on Thursday with a resounding commitment to a unified and coordinated response to emerging health

The summit provided a platform for insightful discussions, knowledge exchange, and the establishment of collaborative initiatives to strengthen global health security.

The summit presented determination and shared vision among nations, transcending geopolitical boundaries in the pursuit of a common goal. Discussions covered a

wide spectrum of topics,

from collaborative preparedness to the crifical role of resilient health sys-Delegates representing diverse corners of the globe shared invaluable in-

sights, emphasizing the interconnectedness of our shared destiny. Caretaker Federal

Nadeem Jan congratulated the participating delegates and participants to make this summit a successful event. "Beyond national interests, we are partners for a common goal – to ensure the health of all."

He proposed to introduce a Global Health Security Agenda Champion Awards to be bestowed upon the countries or individuals based on their exemplary contributions to the cause.

He also proposed the inclusion of a dedicated special session on global health security in both the annual UNGA and World Health Assembly agendas. This would provide a regular platform for nations to review progress, share insights, and discuss emerging health challenges on a

global scale. A comprehensive fiveyear global action plan was proposed to guide nations in implementing strategies for enhancing health secu-

Minister for Health Dr a launchpad and beginning of the end. Commitments made here must translate into concrete actions in our mentation is the litmus test of our dedication to the ideals espoused during these

deliberations.' Federal Secretary of Health Iftikhar Ali Shalwani stated that it was a "dream come true" to witness the collaborative efforts of policymakers, experts, and stakeholders from around the world.

He emphasized the need for continued collaboration and the implementation of evidence-based strategies to safeguard global health. He underscored the importance of the summit as a platform for forging partnerships and creating a roadmap for collective

Muhammad Ahmed Kazi, Director General of Health, expressed sincere gratitude to participants for their active engagement throughout the summit. He summarized the Dr Nadeem said, "As main highlights of the twowe conclude this summit, day proceedings of the



SLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Jamal Shah cutting ribbon to inaugurate Calligraphy Exhibition at PNCA.

Solangi felicitates IHCJA's newly elected office bearers

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Ministér for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi on Thursday congratulated the newly elected office bearers of the Islamabad High Court Journalists Associa-

He, in a news statement, felicitated IHCJA's President Fayyaz Mehmood, Senior Vice President Hussain Ahmed, Vice President (Women) Ambreen Ali, General Secretary Muhammad Imran and other officials on winning the election.

Their victory in the election was a manifestation of the trust reposed by the court reporters in them, the minister added.

He expressed the hope that the newly elected regime would meet the expectations of the court re-

Safe city issues 222,195 e-challans in 2023

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Safe City Islamabad effectively addressed traffic violations by issuing a total of 222,195 e-challans during the year 2023. The Safe City Command and Control Center played a pivotal role in implementing traffic rules, targeting various violations, such as driving without seat belts, improper use of fancy number plates, zebra crossing violations, disregarding red signals, over-speeding, and using mobile phones while driving. The breakdown of these e-challans includes 4,495 for seat belt violations, 206,747 for overspeeding, 431 for mobile phone usage during driving.

Caretaker govt seeks positive economic reforms thru dialogue ISLAMABAD (APP): specifically focusing Principal Information on elections and re

PIO Dr. Tariq says:

Officer (PIO) Dr. Tariq forms. Mehmood Khan on Thursday said that gratitude to the ment intended to fos- Party (IPP) ter a constructive dialogue on economic their participation in reforms in the country with a goal of they shared the plans steering the nation forward.

Addressing the seminar on "Elections and Economic Agenda of Political Parties", he ex-tended thanks and gratitude to the participants. It was organized by of Press Information Department (PID).

He highlighted the media's active participation in diverse discussions and said that Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Murtaza foundation for the Solangi, desired to forthcoming adminiscommence a debate, tration.

He expressed the Jamat-e-Islami for the seminar, where and ideas, to ensure the progress and improvement of the country.

He voiced the optimism that other political parties would also participate in the upcoming seminar, in order to share information about their plans, for working towards achieving lasting stability in the country.

He said the interim government was actively implementing reforms to provide a foundation for the

HEC to hold conferences to seek ideas for tackling climate change challenges

The Higher Education Commission (HEC) has decided to hold a series of conferences across the country to seek innovative ideas from Pakistani university graduates to tackle climate change challenges.

According to HEC, on a national scale, Pakistan grapples with significant climate change challenges, including power generation, power distribution, renewable energy, waste dump-

ISLAMABAD (APP): ing points, waste collection points, water treatment, segregation of waste, and the pressing demands of a growing population.

The consequences of these issues are profound, stressing the urgency of a united effort to secure energy, water, eco-tourism, agriculture & forestry and liquid & solid waste management resources and ensure sustainability for present and future genera-



ISLAMABAD: A man is displayed banners in honor of Pak Army martyred on pied Jammu and Kashmir. trees at a green belt along the road side at sector F-6 in Federal Capital.

Islamabad police establish first cyber crime investigation unit to combat digital offenses

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD: The inaugural Cyber Crime Investigation Unit within the Pakistan police department has been officially established as part of Islamabad Police's efforts to cybercrime. This milestone initiative comes on to the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (PECA), empowering Islamabad Police to register Section 30.

Seeking to harness specialized expertise,

Islamabad Police have collice, in collaboration with (FIA) to leverage technical assistance in the investigation of cybercrimes. The partnership is geared towards addressing the intrievolving landscape of digithe directions of Islamabad phase of training for 60 of-

laborated with the Federal the FIA, marks a crucial Investigation Agency step in building a skilled workforce proficient in handling cybercrime cases. These officers have undergone specialized training to equip them with the cate challenges posed by knowledge and tools necstrengthen the fight against cyber threats and ensuring essary for effective a robust response to the cybercrime investigations. To streamline and centralthe heels of amendments tal offenses. The unit has ize efforts, the Cyber has been established at the Capital City Police Officer F-6 Service Center. This (ICCPO) Dr. Akbar Nasir state-of-the-art facility cybercrime cases under Khan and the successful will serve as a hub for cocompletion of the first ordinating and conducting in-depth investigations ficers from Islamabad Po- into cybercrimes.

dark night of Indian op-pression in occupied freedom as they have Jammu and Kashmir will eventually end one day and the Kashmiri people will see the dawn of freedom. According to Kashmir Media Service, the APHC spokesman in a statement issued in Srinagar said the people of Kashmir are demanding their inalienable right to self determination but the Indian Hindutva regime is reluctant to accept the peaceful and democratic

the legitimate and indig-

enous resistance move-

ment of Kashmir.

never submitted to Indian

The spokesman said that Indian colonialism used every tactic of oppression to weaken the Kashmiris' indigenous movement for freedom but it could not stop them from continuing their struggle for right to self-determination. He said that the Kashmiris had a great respect for the youth who had sacrificed their lives for the Kashmir cause and urged the international community to increase pressure on India to stop state terrorism in occu-